

Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone:

The City of Laurel would like to express our strong support for Senate Bill 874, which would establish Community Safety Works as an ongoing program within the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. Established as a budget initiative within the Department, Community Safety Works has already provided valuable assistance to nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments through targeted investments in crime prevention that impact community safety.

This program has served in the City of Laurel to support and emphasize safe shopping and community partnership fostering within our commercial corridors. These funds help deter crime and assist in the creation of a safe, livable, attractive commercial region. Within the city, we've used these funds in order to amplify and improve lighting, improve pedestrian and automobile traffic safety and walkability, improve the scenery of our public spaces, and bring the local community and the government together in public events for the people. This program is crucial to the development of safe, revitalized economic regions within Maryland, and it can serve to help other communities with the same kind of development.

Again, this is to request a favorable report on SB874 to continue this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cesar Cucufate
Economic Development Coordinator, City of Laurel